**The Chrysler Building:**

**Another Sky Scraper for the Grand Central Zone**

*-In the heart of the Grand Central Station office zone diagonally opposite The Grand Central Station and facing Vanderbilt Avenue, the fifty-three-story Lincoln Building is being erected.*

*-In the site of the old Lincoln storage warehouse which, for many years was a landmark of New York, being the first sight of New York City secured by thousands of strangers arriving through the Grand Central Station.*

*-A large plot has been added on Madison Avenue. Total area of the sight: 43,000 square feet (more than an acre) in the heart of Metropolis.*

*-Gross rental of the new building: 900,000 square feet and the rent roll for its use is about $4,528,000.*

1. *-Expected that occupancy will be possible in February, 1930.*

*-There will be 30 elevators a restaurant, 2 subway entrances with direct connection to all subway lines and the Grand Central Station; which also covered passage to many of the prominent buildings in the midtown zone.*

*-In the neighborhood on the easterly Lexington Avenue front between Forty-second and Forty-third Streets, wreckers are tearing down the old row of structures for the proposed sixty-seven-story Chrysler Building, the tower of which will rise 16 feet above the Woolworth Building.*

1. **Another Sky Scraper in the Grand Central Zone**
   1. **Lincoln Building is being erected** 
      1. **In the heart of the Grand Central Office.**
      2. **Facing Vanderbilt Avenue**
      3. **53 stories**
      4. **30 elevators a restaurant, 2 subway entrances with direction to all subway lines, Central Station (covered passage to many prominent buildings in the midtown zone.**
      5. **Site of the old Lincoln storage warehouse** 
         1. **Was a landmark of NY; thousands cared for it.**
   2. **A large are had been added on the Madison Avenue.**
      1. **Total Area; 43,000 square feet (more than an acre) in the heart of Metropolis.**
      2. **Gross rental of new building; 900,000 square feet; rent about $4,528,000**
      3. **Expected occupation to be possible in February, 1930.**
   3. **Tearing down old row of structured for the proposed 67 story Chrysler Building**
      1. **Tower will rise 16 feet above the Woolworth Building.**

**Chrysler Building 809 Feet in Height**

*- World's Tallest Edifice to cost $15,000,000-Topped by Artistic Dome.*

*-Chrysler Building under the construction on the Lexington Avenue front between Forty-third and Forty-Fourth Streets were announced yesterday by Frank B. Rogers (vice president of the E.P. Chrysler Building Corporation)*

*-Building will be 890 feet in height, making it the highest building in the world, overtopping the 792 feet of the Woolworth Building in lower Broadway.*

*-elevators: largest vertical transportations; designed so that they can run not only high but as rapidly as 900 feet a minute "express elevators"*

*-if run on a non stop schedule, they would make the entire distance in less than a minute*

*-It is estimated by architectures that 11,000 people can be comfortably housed in the building's offices.*

*-there will be 150 employees to handle traffic*

*-total are of the plot is 37,555 feet square*

*-the frontage is 167.2 on Forty-second Street; 210.10 on Lexington Avenue and 205 feet in Forty-third Street*

*-Under the zoning laws of New York City the setback ratio of the building was fixed at one to four.*

*-There will be 16 stories measuring 182 feet without any setback.*

*-1st setback is 18 feet in the next 17 stories.*

*-Properly speaking, the main volume of the story (tower included) is 56 stories. Dome which tops the structure is 12 stories.*

*-There will be floodlights on each of the four corners of the terrace. (The 56th floor and on the top of the dome; lights the pinnacle of the building.)*

*-It will be mounted by a sculptures figure six-teen feet high.*

*-Great hall in street level will sun parallel to Lexington Avenue, north and south.*

*-Entrance+20 feet wide, 3 stories high (40 feet high)*

*-The hall will be 100 feet long, 32 feet wide and 26 feet to the cornice, crowned in its centre by a dome 38 feet high.*

*-Special subway entrance will be built in the Forty-second Street and Forty-Third Street corners.*

*-There will be 2 inside stairways leading to the subways though an arcade which will be lined with shops.*

*-Face of the building; constructed of imported Norwegian granite AKA ‘Shastone’ granite.*

*- Marble; used as high as the fifth floor, from that point to the 16th floor; will be a basketweave patter of Georgia marble and whitefaces brick.*

*-Constructors are Fred T. Ley & Co., Inc. The Carnegie Steel Company is supplying the steel, which will be fabricated by the erected by Post & McCord.*

1. **The Chrysler Building: Estimated to cost $15,000,000.**
   1. **Highest building in the world**
      1. **Constructors are Fred T. Ley & Co., Inc. The Carnegie Steel Company in supplying the steel, which will be fabricated by the erected by Post & McCord.**
      2. **total are of the plot is 37,555 feet square**
      3. **Building will be 890 feet in height; overtopping the 792 feet of the Woolworth Building in lower Broadway.**
         1. **elevators: largest vertical transportations; designed so that they can run not only high but as rapidly as 900 feet a minute "express elevators"**
            1. **if run on a non stop schedule, they would make the entire distance in less than a minute**
   2. **Architecture**
      1. **Entrance- 20 feet wide, 3 stories high (40 feet high)**
      2. **There will be 2 inside stairways leading to the subways though an arcade which will be lined with shops.**
      3. **The****hall will be 100 feet long. 32 feet wide and 26 feet to the cornice, crowned in its centre by a dome 38 feet high.**
      4. **Floors**
         1. **Marble; used as high as the fifth floor.**
         2. **From that point to the 16th floor; will be a basketweave patter of Georgia marble and whitefaces brick.**
         3. **There will be floodlights on each of the four corners of the terrace;**
            1. **The fifty sixth floor and on the top of the dome to light the pinnacle of the building.**
   3. **Management**
      1. **There will be 150 employees to handle traffic**
      2. **It is estimated by architectures that 11,000 people can be comfortably housed in the building's offices.**

**Chrysler Building Escapes City Taxes**

*- $114,000,000 Skyscraper rising on land owned by cooper Union Exempt by 1859 Law.*

*-sixty-eight-story Chrysler building will cost $14,000,000, inclusive of leasehold, will be free of city taxes unless the old law which exempts the land and building from taxation is changed or its interpretation altered by the court.*

*-W. P. Chrysler Building Corporation of Detroit, is the head, apparently he will not pay a tax directly to the city on the project under the ground rental a sum almost equivalent to the taxes to Cooper Union, owners of the site.*

*-Exemption Granted in 1859.*

*-Land fronting 2001 feet on Lexington Avenue and 167 feet on Forty Second Street has a ground area of 37,500 square feet.*

*-Cooper Union in 1859 by special legislative act received tax exception on all land on buildings it owns, and has since then successfully defended several efforts to have its holdings placed on the tax lists.*

*-About 20 years ago an attempt by the city to tax the property upon which the Chrysler building will stand failed, and a court decision was handed dawn interpreting the law as covering all buildings of the Cooper Union whether used by that organization for educational purposes or leased to other persons.*

*-Henry M. Goldfogle (president of the Board of Taxes and the Assessments of New York)*

*-Questioned about the status of the Chrysler Project= admitted yesterday that he had "ordered a research" on his office to determine the history of the tax-exempt tract and the ruling under which the old law was upheld, as a basis for "possible future action."*

*-Declared that no decision had been reached as to what should be done because "the question could not come up until the building is complete."*

*-Pointed out that the exemption of the Bar Association Building in Forty-Third Street came: under a different classification as bar association properties used solely for bar association purposes," in accordance with the provisions of the Fearon Bill of 1927 amending the reality tax statutes.*

*-R. J. Delehanty, chief deputy of real estate of the Board of Taxes and Assessments declared the tax status of the Chrysler Building had brought fore the question of assessments under old laws.*

*-"It is generally admitted that under the old laws no such general exemption as now exists was intended."*

*-Declared that under an old ruling such property as the Chrysler Building enjoyed the same fire, police and other municipal protections that taxed buildings received without expense, because it belonged to a church, charitable or other exempted organization, even through not used by such organization.*

*-Building scheduled to be completed in May, 1930.*

*-Apparently no action, legislative or judicial, would affect the property before then.*

*-The size of the building and the valuable location indicate that any effort to add it or the land to the tax assessment list would open a far reaching controversy.*

*-Building is to be 808 feet high, 16 feet higher than the Woolworth Building.*

*-It is directly across Lexington Avenue from the Hotel Commodore, where the land is assessed at $8,300,000 and the 26 story building at $15,500,000.*

*-Maurice Wertheim realty broker estimated the Cooper Union tract was worth between $8,500,000 and $9,500,000.*

*-Building is being financed by a loan of $7,500,000 by S. W. Status & Co.*

*-It was said that the Cooper Union office that the Chrysler lease had been made with consideration for the tax emption.*

*-The Chrysler concern took over the lease held by former Senator William H. Reynolds.*

*-Mr. Reynolds had remolded the dwelling on the site several years ago into store and office structures which were torn down last year to make way for the skyscraper.*

*-According to the Chrysler lease filed Oct. 18, 1928, the building corporation will pay to Cooper Union a ground rent and ground tax equivalent of $113,000 for 1928 and 1929; the sum of $26,000 for 1930 and $36,000 in each of the years 1931 and 1932.*

*-For the following ten years the annual sum will be $262,500 and for eleven years up to 1953, the time of expiration of the first term of the lease, $330,000 annually.*

*-Two twenty-five-year renewals are provided up to 1995 at 5 and a half cent of a revaluation of the land.*

*-In addition to these amounts, the corporation agrees to pay as "additional rent" to Cooper Union the "prevailing rate of taxation" yearly on 80 per cent of the building.*

*-Thus the Chrysler firm will pay a "tax" to Cooper Union of four-fifths the assessed value of the completed building instead of a tax to the city on 100 per cent of the assessed valuation.*

*-A similar arrangement had figures in Senator Reynolds’s operation of the tax-free property.*

*-Bills have been introduced in the State Legislature on several occasions in recent years to tax such properties of churches and similar organizations as now enjoy exemption, although occupied for other than church or charitable purpose, but all such efforts have failed.*

1. **Dilemmas of the Chrysler Building**
   1. **Chrysler Building (68 floors)**
      1. **The size of the building and the valuable location indicate that any effort to add it or the land to the tax assessment list would open a far reaching controversy.**
         1. **Building is to be 808 feet high, 16 feet higher than the Woolworth Building.**
      2. **Cost $14,000,000.**
         1. **Will be free of city taxes unless the old law which exempts the land and building from taxation is changed or its interpretation altered by the court.**
      3. **Building scheduled to be completed in May, 1930.**
   2. **W. P. Chrysler Building Corporation of Detroit (is the head)** 
      1. **Apparently he will not pay a tax directly to the city on the project under the ground rental a sum almost equivalent to the taxes to Cooper Union, owners of the site.**
   3. **About 20 years ago an attempt by the city to tax the property upon which the Chrysler Building will stand failed, and a court decision was handed dawn interpreting the law as covering all buildings of the Cooper Union whether used by that organization for educational purposes or leased to other persons.**
   4. **Henry M. Goldfogle (president of the Board of Taxes and the Assessments of New York)** 
      1. **Questioned about the status of the Chrysler Project**
         1. **Admitted that he had "ordered a research" on his office to determine the history of the tax-exempt tract and the ruling under which the old law was upheld, as a basis for "possible future action."**
      2. **Declared that no decision had been reached as to what should be done because "the question could not come up until the building is complete."**
      3. **Pointed out that the exemption of the Bar Association Building in Forty-Third Street came: under a different classification as bar association properties used solely for bar association purposes," in accordance with the provisions of the Fearon Bill of 1927 amending the reality tax statutes.**
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      1. **For the following ten years the annual sum will be $262,500 and for eleven years up to 1953, the time of expiration of the first term of the lease, $330,000 annually.**

**Chrysler Building Now Tallest Edifice**

*-Tower Height of 808 Feet surpasses Woolworth Structure by Sixteen feet.  
-After the completion of the steel work: building now enjoyed distinction of being the tallest building in the World.*

*-Rising 68 stories above the street level (808 feet in height); surpassing the 792-foot elevator of the Woolworth Building by 16 feet.*

*-Another Sky Scraper for the Grand Central Zone  
-The Grand Central office zone diagonally opposite The Grand Central Station and facing Vanderbilt Avenue, the fifty-three –story Lincoln Building.*

*-The Bank of Manhattan Building on Wall Street is rapidly ascending to its maximum height (architectures say it will be 840 feet high.)*

*-Chrysler Building occupies choice plot in the heart of Grand Central Zone.*

*-Main entrance of lobby (on Lexington); fan-shaped*

*- Providing convenient access to the thirty-two elevators.*

*-speed of the elevators will be approximately 1,000 feet a minute.*

*-Dome of tower; enclosed observation gallery-providing a clear view of the surrounding metropolis (within a radius of 100 miles.)*

1. **The Chrysler Building**
   1. **Features of the Chrysler Building.**
      1. **Distinction of being the tallest building in the world.**
      2. **Speed of the elevators will be approximately 1,000 feet a minute.**
      3. **Dome of tower**
         1. **Enclosed observation gallery-providing a clear view of the surrounding metropolis; within a 100 mile radius.**
      4. **Main entrance of Lobby (on Lexington)**
         1. **Providing convenient access to the thirty-two elevators.**
         2. **Fan-shaped**
   2. **Another Skyscraper for the Grand Central**
      1. **Lincoln Building**
         1. **The Grand Central Station and facing Vanderbilt Avenue**
         2. **53 story building**
      2. **The Bank of Manhattan Building**
         1. **Wall Street**
         2. **Rapidly ascending to tits maximum eight**
            1. **Architecturally say it will be 840 feet high.**

**Chrysler Building Opens**

1. **Opening of the Chrysler Building**
   1. **Inspection of the Chrysler Building**
      1. **Visitors**
         1. **Allowed to go to the 67th floor of the 77 story structure**
         2. **Several Students from Lehigh University’s electric engineering school.**
   2. **Some tenants already moved into their offices.**
      1. **The Texas Company**
         1. **Occupies the space from the 16th to the 29th floor.**

**Chrysler Plans 68 Story Building in Midtown**

*- Walter P. Chrysler, President of the Chrysler Motor Corporation of Detroit acquired lease and will erect the 68story skyscraper*

*-Lease taken over by Mr. Chrysler from William H. Reynolds.*

*-Building will be 808 feet high, 16 feet higher than the Woolworth Building.*

*-Said to be finished in May, 1930.*

*-Personal investment made by Mr. Chrysler but the Chrysler Motor Corporation is not involved.*

*-Lease also involved the transfer of the contract with S. W. Straus & Co. for a loan of $7,500,000 on the property.*

*-Will be taken for the 1st mortgage leasehold 6%.*

*-Complete building and leasehold have been appraised at $14,000,000.*

*-Associated with Mr. Chrysler in the Chrysler in the Chrysler Building are Frank B. Rogers, Nicholas Kelly, D. R. McLain and Henry C. Davis.*

1. **The Chrysler Building**
   1. **Associates with Mr. Chrysler in the Chrysler Building.**
      1. **Frank B. Roger**
      2. **Nicholas Kelly**
      3. **D. R. McLain**
      4. **Henry C. Davis.**
   2. **Lease**
      1. **Walter P. Chrysler, President of the Chrysler Motor Corporation of Detroit acquired lease**
         1. **Lease taken over by Mr. Chrysler from William H. Reynolds.**
      2. **Lease also involved the transfer for the contract with S. W. Straus & Co.** 
         1. **Loan of $7,500,000 on the property.**
         2. **Will be taken for the 1st mortgage leasehold of 6%**
      3. **Complete Building and leasehold have been appraised of $14,000,000.**
   3. **Personal Investment.**
      1. **Made by Mr. Chrysler but the Chrysler Motor Corporation is not involved.**

**Cooper Union Tax Opens Big Question**

*-Inquiry on Chrysler Building exemption affects other valuable holdings.*

*-City made an effort to tax the 68 story Chrysler Building and the exempted land upon which it is being erected, owned by Cooper Union, probably would affect the status of the other valuable properties in New York which are free of taxation by old special laws similar to that under which Cooper Union operates; learned at he offices of the Department of Taxes and Assessments.*

*-Henry M. Goldfogle. president of the Board of the Taxes and Assessments, has ordered an inquiry on the property east side of the Lexington Avenue, between Forty-Second and Forty-third Streets, where the Chrysler Skyscraper is going up, as a "basis for possible future action"*

*-Does not involve the hundred of millions of dollars worth of exempted property coming under the regular tax law.*

*-The laws remove reality levies from land and buildings used governmental, public, religious, charitable and educational purposes.*

*-The status of property belonging to Trinity Episcopal Church, Sailors’ Snug Harbor, Colombia University and other such institutes would not be changed,*

*-nor will the property of Cooper Union itself which is used for educational purposes be affected*

*-Tax covers these holdings, and those not utilized for the purposes of the exempted organizations are taxed*

*-Trinity Church: pays taxes on much of its property used for offices, banks, and other business.*

*-Extensive midtown holdings of Columbia University leased to John D. Rockefeller Jr. for an opera development; subject to taxation.*

*-Sailors' Snug Harbor gets immunity on 200 across of land and numerous buildings on Staten Island occupied in accordance with the will of the founder, Robert Richards Randall, as a treat for "aged decrepit and worn-sailors," but pays taxes on several blocks leased land "never to be sold," in the territory between Sixth and Tenth Streets, Fourth and Fifth Avenues, Manhattan; 20-acre farm when Randall deeded it to sailors' Snug Harbor in 1801.*

*-Under Chapter 703 of the Laws of 1904 the United Engineering Society, Inc., received tax exemption under a classification (in many year) similar to that of Cooper Union*

*-Its purpose set down in tax books as "library and educational."*

*-Coopers purposes are listed as "moral and mental improvement."*

*-United States Engineering Society maintains a 16 story building at 25-33 west 39th street: consists of a library, an auditorium and offices, the latter rented.*

*-In the city tax books (1928): property marked as exempted.*

*-Laws governing the society give immunity from taxes to any building "used in whole or in part" for the purpose of the organization.*

*-Laws of 1859: Cooper Union exemption "in perpetuity": tested in court and upheld as it stands even with regard to properties lease for other than educational use, it is predicted that legislative rather than court action would be restored to by the city in any move to place the Chrysler Building on the tax list.*

*-R. J. Delehanty (chief deputy of real estate of the Board of Taxes and Assessments)*

*-said that "it obviously was not the intention of the laws of 1859 or of any early special legislation to allow general exemption such as now exists in several cases.*

1. **Inquiries**
   1. **Laws of 1859**
      1. **Cooper Union exemption "in perpetuity": tested in court and upheld as it stands even with regard to properties lease for other than educational use, it is predicted that legislative rather than court action would be restored to by the city in any move to place the Chrysler Building on the tax list.**
   2. **R. J. Delehanty (chief deputy of real estate of the Board of Taxes and Assessments)** 
      1. **Said that "it obviously was not the intention of the laws of 1859 or of any early special legislation to allow general exemption such as now exists in several cases.**
   3. **Chrysler building**
      1. **City made an effort to tax the 68 story Chrysler Building and the exempted land upon which it is being erected.**
      2. **Owned by Cooper Union, probably would affect the status of the other valuable properties in New York which are free of taxation by old special laws similar to that under which Cooper Union operates**
         1. **Learned at the offices of the Department of Taxes and Assessments.**
   4. **Henry M. Goldfogle**
      1. **president of the Board of the Taxes and Assessments**
         1. **R. J. Delehanty (chief deputy of real estate of the Board of Taxes and Assessments)** 
            1. **Said that "it obviously was not the intention of the laws of 1859 or of any early special legislation to allow general exemption such as now exists in several cases.**
         2. **Ordered an inquiry on the property east side of the Lexington Avenue, between Forty-Second and Forty-third Streets, where the Chrysler Skyscraper is going up, as a "basis for possible future action"**
      2. **Does not involve the hundred of millions of dollars worth of exempted property coming under the regular tax law.**
         1. **The laws remove reality levies from land and buildings used governmental, public, religious, charitable and educational purposes.**
   5. **Under Chapter 703 of the Laws of 1904 the United Engineering Society, Inc., received tax exemption under a classification (in many year) similar to that of Cooper Union**
      1. **Its purpose set down in tax books as "library and educational."**
      2. **Coopers purposes are listed as "moral and mental improvement."**
   6. **Status of property would not change.**
      1. **Trinity Episcopal Church**
         1. **Trinity Episcopal Church: pays taxes on much of its property used for offices, banks, and other business.**
      2. **Sailors’ Snug Harbor** 
         1. **Immunity on 200 across of land and numerous buildings on Staten Island occupied in accordance with the will of the founder, Robert Richards Randall, as a treat for "aged decrepit and worn-sailors."**
         2. **Pays taxes on several blocks leased land "never to be sold," in the territory between Sixth and Tenth Streets, Fourth and Fifth Avenues, Manhattan; 20-acre farm when Randall deeded it to sailors' Snug Harbor in 1801.**
         3. **Extensive midtown holdings of Columbia University leased to John D. Rockefeller Jr. for an opera development; subject to taxation.**
      3. **Colombia University and other such institutes would not be changed.**
         1. **Extensive midtown holdings of Columbia University leased to John D. Rockefeller Jr. for an opera development; subject to taxation.**
      4. **Nor will the property of Cooper Union itself which is used for educational purposes be affected**
         1. **Tax covers these holdings, and those not utilized for the purposes of the exempted organizations are taxed.**

***Secondary resources:***

**“Chrysler Building: Piercing the Sky”**

*-Walter P Chrysler had created an empire by manufacturing new modern cars (1925)*

*-Walter was born in 1875. His father worked for the railroad company, Kansas Pacific Railroad Shop in Ellis.*

*-By 1928 Chrysler Cooperation had become the second largest producer of automobiles by introducing two lines of cars; Plymouth and Desoto.*

*-He wanted to go and have his headquarters in New York.*

*-William H Reynolds was senator.*

*-He turned to a real estate developer and was making a 67-storiey building at 43.*

*-William Van Alen was the architecture contracted by Chrysler.*

*-Born in Brooklyn in 1882; enrolled in night classes at the Pratt Institute, after his father’s death.*

*-With a lease the project was handed to Chrysler: approved by the NYC authority. He decided to create the world’s largest structure.*

*- The Empire State Building and the Manhattan Bank Building (now re named The Trump building) at 40, Wall Street.*

*- The Chrysler’s unified symbolism as a chrysalis between automobile and flying machine.*

1. **Walter P Chrysler**
   1. **born in 1875**
   2. **Father worked for the railroad. (Kansas Pacific Railroad Shop in Ellis.)**
   3. **Created an empire by manufacturing new modern cars (1925)**
   4. **By 1928 Chrysler Cooperation had become the second largest producer of automobiles by introducing two lines of cars; Plymouth and Desoto.**
2. **New York City**
   1. **Wanted head quarters in New York**
      1. **William H Reynolds was senator.**
   2. **He turned to a real estate developer** 
      1. **Wanted to make a 67-storiey building at 43.**
   3. **William Van Alen; architecture, contracted by Chrysler.**
      1. **Born in Brooklyn in 1882; enrolled in night classes at the Pratt Institute, after his father’s death.**
   4. **With a lease** 
      1. **Project was handed to Chrysler**
   5. **The Empire State building**
      1. **Constructed some months later after the Chrysler Building was completed**
   6. **The Manhattan Building Bank**
      1. **At 40, wall Street**
      2. **Now re named The Trump Building**

“The Chrysler Building” ([www.salon.com](http://www.salon.com)) By Stephanie Zacharek

*-The Chrysler Building, on Lexington Avenue at 42nd Street: completed in the spring of 1930*

*-Commissioned by developer William J. Reynolds, who hired William Van Alen as his architect.*

*-The Empire State Building is bigger than the Chrysler. It was a build some months latter after it had been constructed.*

*-“November 1929, over a period of just 90 minutes a crew constructed the 180-foot spire, which enabled the Chrysler Building to stretch 1,046 feet into the air becoming taller than the Eiffel Tower's 1,024 feet.*

*-The Chrysler building fell into scrutiny of critics who viewed it as a folly, a vanity project.*

*-When the Stock Market crashed such buildings were viewed negatively due to the memories that surfaced of more prosperous times.*

*-The building was influenced by German expressionism.*

*-During the year of 1929 the 61 floor it possessed made it a sight of the future to come.*

*-The interior of the building has red African Mable, said to have been mined 200 feet underwater.*

*-In the '30s, the 66th, 67th and 68th floors of the Chrysler Building were devoted to a speakeasy known as the Cloud Club, which was appointed with lavish pink marble bathrooms and a gleaming bar of Bavarian wood. Each member had their own locker marked with hieroglyphic codes.*

*-Until 1945, the Chrysler Building housed an observatory on the 71st floor, which was decorated with unique graphics. Now it is rented out as a corporate office space.*

[*http://www.culturevulture.net/movies/Metropolis.htm*](http://www.culturevulture.net/movies/Metropolis.htm)

*Metropolis (1927)*

*- Silent movie made 75 years ago in the infancy of the film medium*

*- screenings in 1927, which ran 153 minutes, the film was mercilessly cut for commercial distribution and few have seen it in its entirety as intended by director Fritz Lang.*

*- biblical mythology, German mythology, Marxist themes, even the Frankenstein theme--all wrapped in a visionary science fiction fantasy world whose influence can be seen throughout the later history of film.*

*- On screen it takes on a massive scale with a pronounced art deco influence; one skyscraper surely was inspired by the Chrysler building, especially appropriate to this tale with its combination sleek lines and gothic gargoyles.*

*- The eponymous city was inspired by a visit Lang made to New York in 1924.*

*-   The city of Metropolis, like worlds from German opera (Wagner, certainly; Strauss'* Die Frau ohne Schatten*) is dichotomous, divided between the gods and the mortals, the high and the low.*

*- Within this setting Lang tells the story of Freder Fredersen, the son of Joh Fredersen, ruler of the city. Freder's heart is captured by Maria, a young woman from the Lower City, after seeing her showing some workers' children the Upper City. He seeks her out in the Lower City, observing the workers, slaves to the unmerciful machines. When a machine explodes, Freder has a vision of Moloch, a god of fire associated with the sacrifice of children. Despite special effects techniques that were primitive in 1927 as compared to today, Lang's imagery remains powerful and evocative.*

*- It was, after all, the first full length science fiction film ever made.*

1. **The Chrysler Building**
   1. **Lexington Avenue at 42nd Street: completed in the spring of 1930**
   2. **In Nov. 1929 a crew constructed a 180-foot spire**
      1. **In 90 minutes**
      2. **Enabled the building to stretch 1,046 feet into the air**
         1. **Bigger than the Eiffel Tower's 1,024 feet.**
2. **Views of the Chrysler Building**
   1. **During the year of 1929 the 61st –futuristic**
   2. **The Chrysler building fell into scrutiny of critics who viewed it as a folly and as a vanity project.**
3. **Architecture of the building**
   1. **The building was influenced by German expressionism.**
      1. **Fritz Lang's "Metropolis.": influenced the Chrysler building**
         1. **On screen it takes on a massive scale with a pronounced art deco** 
            1. **Influenced the Chrysler building, especially appropriate to this tale with its combination sleek lines and gothic gargoyles.**
         2. **Silent movie made 75 years ago in the infancy of the film medium** 
            1. **screenings in 1927, which ran 153 minutes**
         3. **The eponymous city was inspired by a visit Lang made to New York in 1924.**
         4. **The city of Metropolis, like worlds from German opera (Wagner, certainly; Strauss' Die Frau ohne Schatten) is dichotomous, divided between the gods and the mortals, the high and the low.**
   2. **In the '30s, the 66th, 67th and 68th floors**
      1. **Devoted to a speakeasy known as the Cloud Club.**
         1. **Appointed with lavish pink marble bathrooms and a gleaming bar of Bavarian wood.**
         2. **Each member had their own locker marked with hieroglyphic codes.**
   3. **interior of the building has red African Mable**
      1. **Said to have been mined 200 feet underwater.**
   4. **Until 1945 the 71st floor housed an observatory.**
      1. **Decorated with unique graphics.**
      2. **Now it is rented out as a corporate office space.**

**Power Point: Chrysler Building *(Secondary Item)***

*405 Lexington Avenue New York City, NY*

***Development (cost: $15 million, today $17 billion.)***

*-developed y William H. Reynolds & architect William Van Alen (constructed the 185 ft. Spire.), in 1928*

*-World’s tallest building (’30-’31)*

*-Faced competition from the Bank of Manhattan Company (designed and built to a height of 927 ft.)*

*-Reynolds sold lease and design plans to Walter P. Chrysler.*

*-Originally designed to b e 808 ft tall, received to 925 ft.*

***Owners***

*Walter P. Chrysler, Chairman of the Chrysler Corporation*

*-Sol Goldman and Alex Di Lorenzo*

*-Mass. Mutual Life Insurance Company*

*-Jack Kent Cooke, a Washington D.C. investor.*

*-Tisham Speyer Properties (25%) and TMW Real Estate Group (75%)*

***Current use***

*-offices (different industries occupy it.)*

*-An assortment of retail stores/amenities; located throughout building (Lobby-open to public)*

*-Observation deck (closed; Cloud Club (closed in 19978): FORMER MENITIES*

***Architecture***

*-Style; Art Deco (exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes)*

*-Material: white brick and meta façade, Nirosta Dome (steel), Blend of Industrial and Chrysler images.*

***Exterior***

*-Black Granite Entrance, Hubcaps, Hood Ornaments, 61st Floor Eagles.*

*-32 Full-Length Elevators, 35 miles of piping, 750 miles of electrical wiring.*

*-Elevator system by Otis Elevator Corp., Originally capable of rates up to 1200 ft/min, (20ft/sec) deemed unsafe by city officials*

***Interior***

*-Elegant Lobby, beautiful Murals, Unique Elevators, and recently Renovated.*

***Structural Stability***

*-The Chrysler Building is 1046 feet tall, H-Plan (setback at 16th, 23rd and 30th floor.), 4 banks of 8 elevators, Nirosta Steel, [3862 windows], [20,000 tons] and 400,000 rivets.*

*-BASICS; Constructed by Fred T. Ley & Co., 77 floors, first building to surpass 1000ft, [20,961 tons of structural steel.], [391,881 rivets], [3,826,000 bricks.]*

*-designed to way, stiff inner core, elevators as shear walls, reinforced with steel trusses, diagonal beams add additional support.*

***Construction Time***

*-Began in September 19, 1998 (materials: steel and brick)*

*-4 floors built over week*

*-185 ft spire built spire in the elevator shaft.*

*-Completed May 28, 1930*

***Safety***

*-3,000 construction workers*

*-Outstanding safety record*

*-zero fatalities, rare for time period (due to new phone system)*

***Since then:***

*-Original lighting installed in 1980’s, RENOVATED in 1978-79 (restoration complete in 1995), Tallest standing brick building in the world.*

***Temperature Control System***

*-Contract with Carrier Engineering; (among 1st building to include air conditioning system) = “Manufactured Weather” system revolutionary for its time.*

***Television and Radio broadcasting***

*-Uppermost floor; slanted to be useful for offices; used to house mechanical and broadcasting equipment.*

*-Former broadcasting home of WCBS-TV several radio stations.*

1. **The Chrysler building: (cost: $15 million, today $17 billion.)**
2. **Owners** 
   1. **Walter P. Chrysler, Chairman of the Chrysler Corporation**
   2. **Sol Goldman and Alex Di Lorenzo**
   3. **Mass. Mutual Life Insurance Company**
   4. **Jack Kent Cooke, a Washington D.C. investor.**
   5. **Tisham Speyer Properties (25%) and TMW Real Estate Group (75%)**
3. **Construction Time**
   1. **Began in September 19, 1998** 
      1. **materials: steel and brick**
      2. **4 floors built over week**
   2. **Completed May 28, 1930**
4. **Architecture**
   1. **Style; Art Deco (exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes)**
      1. **Material:** 
         1. **White brick and Meta façade, Nirosta Dome (steel), Blend of Industrial and Chrysler images.**
   2. **Interior**
      1. **Elegant Lobby (beautiful Murals)**
      2. **35 miles of piping, 750 miles of electric wiring**
      3. **Elevator System**
         1. **185 ft spire built spire in the elevator shaft**
         2. **By Otis Elevator Corp.,**
         3. **Originally capable of rates up to 1200 ft/min, (20ft/sec); deemed unsafe by officials**
         4. **32 full length Elevator; 4 banks of 8 elevators** **and at shear walls**
   3. **Exterior**
      1. **Black Granite Entrance, Hubcaps, Hood Ornaments, 61st Floor Eagles.**
   4. **Structural Stability**
      1. **Nirosta Steel**
         1. **reinforced with steel trusses**
      2. **1046 feet tall, H-Plan (setback at 16th, 23rd and 30th floor.)**
      3. **[3862 windows]**
      4. **[20,961 about (20,000) tons]**
      5. **[391,881 about (400,000) rivets]**
      6. **[3,826,000 bricks]**
      7. **[20,961 tons of structural steel]**
   5. **Design**
      1. **Basics**
         1. **Constructed by Fred T. Ley & Co.**
         2. **first building to surpass 1000ft**
      2. **To sway, stiff inner core; 77 floors**
      3. **Diagonal beams add additional support.**
   6. **Safety**
      1. **3,000 construction workers; Outstanding safety record**
      2. **zero fatalities, rare for time period (due to new phone system)**